Clause 2 was put and carried.

The Schedule was put and carried.

Clause 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I move—

That the Madras Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1959 (L.A. Bill No. 5 of 1959), be passed.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is—

That the Madras Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1959 (L.A. Bill No. 5 of 1959), be passed.

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed.

X.—STATEMENT *re* : DISTURBANCES AT ROYAPETTAH ON 28TH MARCH 1959.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : At about 4-45 p.m. on 28th March 1959, Traffic Sergeant H. Ramakrishnan stopped Baby Taxi MSX 774 near the Royapetta Plice Station as he found the driver Abdul Rahim, aged 44 years, driving without a head-dress. As the driver behaved in an unruly manner (he threw the Driving Licence on the bonnet of the Taxi) when asked to produce his driving licence and badge, the Sergeant arrested him under Section 75 of the City Police Act and took him to Royapetta Police Station. The driver was later released at 5-05 p.m. on bail being offered by Sri R. Srinivasan, President of the Taxi Drivers' Association. The driver alleged that he was wearing his head-dress and that he was severely manhandled by the Sergeant. He was taken to the General Hospital for medical examination by the Police. The news of this alleged assault soon got round and all taxis and autorickshaws in the city staged a lightning strike by abandoning their vehicles on both sides of the road. Some of the taxis carrying passengers also dropped the passengers and fell in line with other taxis. In the meanwhile the Union Office bearers having visited the General Hospital and seeing that the Driver was alright met me, i.e., the Commissioner of Police and requested disciplinary action to be taken against the Sergeant. As a matter of fact there was no external injury on the taxi driver, but as he complained of pain in the back he has been detained in the General Hospital for taking an X-ray photograph. On my (i.e., the Police Commissioner's) assurance that necessary action would be taken, the office bearers directed all the taxi drivers to remove the taxis to their respective sheds and by about 8 p.m. all the taxis and autorickshaws which were parked on both sides of the road left the place.

The three occupants of the taxi were Sri M. K. Sankaran, Senior Clerk in the Office of the Regional Director of Food, Sri T. R. Kasinathan, Upper Division Clerk in the Office of the Accountant-General, Madras and Sri M. K. Ramamurthy, a Student in

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the Final Honours (Economics) of Vivekananda College. These three persons have testified that the taxi driver was without his head dress at the time he was checked by the Sergeant and that he threw the driving licence on the bonnet of the taxi. These independent witnesses thus corroborated the version of the Traffic Sergeant. The taxi driver for his part has stated that he has no witnesses to support his allegation.

At about 9 p.m. a crowd of about 200 persons approached the Royapettah Police Station from the North shouting anti-police and anti-Government slogans and demanding the Traffic Sergeant to be handed over to them. It would appear that this crowd came from Srinivasapuram Second Street, where an election meeting to canvass support for the Communist candidate was being held and at which a reference was made to the alleged assault on the taxi driver by the Police and the driver's condition was reported to be very critical. The speakers at that meeting are reported to have incited the crowd against the Royapettah Police. The Inspector of Police, Mylapore Division, informed the Officers about the collection of the crowd in front of the Police Station. The Assistant Commissioner arrived at the Police Station at 9-30 p.m. The crowd had by then swelled to about 500. The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, also immediately arrived at the spot with reinforcements. The road was completely blocked and traffic was brought to a stand-still. Stones and soda water bottles were pelted at passing vehicles and also on the Police vehicles stationed in front of the Police Station. A few tiles on the Police Station and the name board were damaged. The Deputy Commissioner declared the crowd 'unlawful' and direct it to disperse by means of megaphones. The crowd refused to disperse and more stones were thrown. A warning was issued that tear gas will be used. In spite of it the crowd advanced from the main road and through the side lanes throwing more stones and soda water bottles. Four tear gas shells were fired on Royapettah High Road and in the adjoining lanes. In spite of it the crowd continued to advance. As the direction of the wind was not favourable more tear gas could not be used and the crowd was again warned that if they failed to disperse they would be lathi-charged. As this warning did not have the desired effect a lathi-charge was ordered and the crowd soon scattered in all directions and the situation was brought under control. The crowd consisted mostly of unruly and unsocial elements who had attended certain election meetings nearby and were indulging in anti-Government and anti-Police slogans.

A case in Royapettah Police Station crime No. 198/59, Sections 147, 332 and 323, I.P.C., has been registered and is under investigation. Seventy-two persons who indulged in hooliganism mentioned above have been arrested so far. Two Sergeants and four Police Constables were injured as a result of stone throwing and 13 persons among the accused received simple injuries as a result of the lathi-charge.

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The Taxi Drivers' and Auto-Rickshaw Drivers' Associations held a meeting at the Old Congress Maidan between 11-30 p.m. and 12-30 a.m. at which the speakers deplored the action of the Police in assaulting the taxi driver and expressed confidence in the Police Commissioner, who had promised to take necessary action in the matter, and directed the drivers to continue their strike till 6 p.m. on 29th March 1959, which guidance by the Union is ununderstandable.

,The situation is under control and no further incidents were reported. Necessary precautionary measures have been taken.

In respect of the traffic infringements by the Taxi Driver, he will be prosecuted in Court. As regards the alleged assault by the Sergeant inside the Police Station, he was placed under suspension on the morning of 29th March 1959 pending a full enquiry into the matter. And an enquiry by the Deputy Commissioner, Traffic, is being held.

The Taxi Drivers' and Auto-Rickshaw Drivers' Associatons held a meeting on 29th March 1959 evening and decided to resume work to-day. Accordingly, all taxis and auto-rickshaws are plying in the City this morning.

SRI K. ANBAZHAGAN : On a point of information, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : May I draw the attention of the Hon. Member to Rule 81 of the Assembly Rules? It reads as follows :—

'A statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made.'

In view of this rule, how can the hon. Member ask any question?

SRI K. ANBAZHAGAN : I rise on a point of order, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : What is the hon. Member going to raise on a point of order?

SRI K. ANBAZHAGAN : The Hon. Speaker will please hear me and then. . .

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member is following the procedure of Sri V. K. Kothandaraman. He cannot make a statement.

SRI K. ANBAZHAGAN : I hope, Sir, you will not show me a wrong example. I am raising a point of order in this House because the Hon. the Finance Minister said just a few minutes before. . .

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member will please sit down. I have told the hon. Member Sri Kothandaraman that he cannot make a speech on a point of order. The hon. Member must tell the Speaker whot is the gist of the point of order. I will then decide

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it. The hon. Member cannot expect me to show a different treatment to him from the one meted out to Sri V. K. Kothandaraman. Let the hon. Member please tell me the point of order. No question can be asked on a Minister's statement.

Sri K. ANBAZHAGAN : தலைவர் அவர்களே, இந்த சட்ட மன்றத்தில் ஒழுங்குகளுக்கு மாறாக ஒரு சம்பவம் பற்றியுள்ள வழக்கு விசாரணையில் இருக்கும்போது இந்த வழக்கில் சம்பந்தப்பட்டவர்கள் இவர்கள் தான் என்றும், ராயபுரம் சம்பவத்திற்கு பக்கத்தில் நடைபெற்ற கம்யூனிஸ்டு கட்சி கூட்டத்தில் பேசிய பேச்சுத்தான் காரணம் என்று கனம் போலீஸ் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் குறிப்பிட்டார்கள். மேலும், நிதி அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் . . . .

Mr. SPEAKER : That does not arise. The hon. Member cannot refer to the Finance Minister. The hon. Member is raising a point of order on the Home Minster's statement and not on the Finance Minister's statement.

Sri K. ANBAZHAGAN : I request the Speaker to . . .

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : I said, Sir, that I was not mentioning any party at all and that it would be stated by the Home Minister. And that he has said.

Mr. SPEAKER : Hon. Members will please note that the Speaker here is not to decide whether the statement made is a correct statement. I am not in that position. I am not aware of any statement made. I am only going according to the rules. When the Home Minister makes a statement, there is no further question on it. The hon. Member has got other remedies.

Sri A. GOVINDASAMY : With due respect to the Chair, Sir . . .

Mr. SPEAKER : Even without showing that respect, it is out of order.

Sri T. S. RAMASWAMY PILLAI : I rise on a point of order, Sir. I want to know whether the statement is the Minister's statement or the Police Commissioner's statement. Obviously, he read from the Commissioner's statement. When the Hon. Minister read, 'Some people approached me', he said by way of explanation that it referred to the Commissioner.

Mr. SPEAKER : I do not know what the point of order is.

Sri T. S. RAMASWAMY PILLAI : My point of order is that whether the Hon. Minister was reading the Police Commissioner's statement or whether it was his own statement. 12-30 p.m.

Mr. SPEAKER : It is not a point of order, it is only a point of information.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMY PILLAI : May I know whether it is right on the part of the Hon. the Minister for Home to have read the statement of the Commissioner of Police before this House instead of giving a statement by himself?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I have made the position quite clear in my statement. Perhaps the hon. Member did not listen to me carefully. I have said that I got the statement from the Commissioner of Police. I may also add that when I quote the Commissioner's statement, I do so with the full responsibility as a statement of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : I think Sri Ramaswamy Pillai will not press his point of order.

SRI V. K. KOTHANDARAMAN : கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, கனம் போலீஸ் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் கம்யூனிஸ்டு கட்சியினர் நடத்தின கூட்டத்தில் பேசின பேச்சின் விளைவாகத்தான் இது நடந்தது என்று சொன்னார்கள். அதே சமயத்தில் பக்கத்தில் வேறு ஒரு கூட்டமும் நடந்து கொண்டிருந்தது என்பது. . .

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot allow the hon. Member. When I have not allowed the hon. Member Sri Anbazhagan how can I allow Sri Kothandaraman? இதைத்தான் அன்பழகன் அவர்களும் கேட்டார், அதை நான் "டிஸ் அலௌ" நிராகரிப்பதற்கு உங்களை "கோட்" பண்ணினேன். இப்போது நீங்கள் சொல்லுவதை நிராகரிப்பதற்கு அன்பழகன் அவர்களை "கோட்பண்ண வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. (சிரிப்பு).

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS *RE-* *cont.*

(2) ELECTION OF ELEVEN MEMBERS TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

MR. SPEAKER : I have to announce to the House that the following eleven Members were duly nominated for the election of eleven Members of the Madras Legislative Assembly to the House Committee :—

(1) Sri S. A. M. Annamalai Udayar.
(2) ,, M. R. Kandaswami Mudaliyar.
(3) ,, J. Matha Gowder.
(4) ,, C. Muthiah.
(5) ,, K. R. Nallasivam.
(6) ,, A. Perumal.
(7) ,, S. Ramalinga Padayachi.
(8) ,, M. P. Sarathi.
(9) ,, S. Sadasivam.
(10) ,, N. R. Thiagarajan.
(11) ,, P. Urkavalan.